

SIKKIM



GOVERNMENT

GAZETTE

**EXTRAORDINARY
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Gangtok

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No. 569

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HOME DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK**

No. 114/Home/2010

Dated: 08.10.2010

NOTIFICATION

The State Government, in supersession of Notifications No. 54 (75) Home/93/33 dated 2nd August, 1993, No. 13/Home/97 dated 14th March, 1997, No. 25/Home/2006 dated 20th March, 2006 and No. 37/Home/2010 dated 17th April, 2010, is hereby pleased to notify with immediate effect the following fees and guidelines for mountaineering expeditions and trekking and matters related thereto, namely:-

1. ROYALTY:

The royalty, imposed as an environment fee under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended from time to time, payable under revenue head "0406-02-800-01-WLS", by the mountaineering expeditions and trekking shall be as follows:

(a) Climbing of Peaks:

Peaks above 8000 mtrs	- US\$ 8000
Peaks between 7501-8000 mtrs	- US\$ 7000
Peaks between 7001-7500 mtrs	- US\$ 6000
Peaks between 6501-7000 mtrs	- US\$ 5500
Peaks below 6500 mtrs	- US\$ 5000

Note: (1) For Indian expeditions 50 % of the royalty stated above shall be charged.

(2) Mountaineering expeditions booked through registered travel agencies located in Sikkim, and expeditions sponsored by the Sonam Gyatso Mountaineering Institute, Gangtok and the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling shall be eligible for a 20% rebate on the royalty prescribed above.

(b) Alpine Expeditions:

(i) For foreign expedition team	- US\$ 500 per team up to 4 members, US \$ 700 per team up to 8 members, and US \$ 100 for every additional member.
(ii) For domestic expedition team	- ₹15,000/- per team up to 8 members and ₹ 1500 for every additional member.
(iii) For an all Sikkim expedition team	- ₹ 5,000/- per team of up to 8 members and ₹500/- for every additional member

The peaks that have been opened by the Government of Sikkim for Alpine expeditions are the following:-

Name	Location	Gradation
Frey's Peak - 5830 mtr	Chaurigang, West Sikkim	AD+
Lama Wangden - 5868mtr	Lachen, North Sikkim	AD
Brumkhangse - 5635 mtr	Yumthang, North Sikkim	D
Mt. Tinchengkang-6010 mtr	West Sikkim	D
Mt. Joponu – 5932 mtr	West Sikkim	D+

Note: - The permit for Alpine expeditions to above five peaks will be issued only to those local Tour Operators who have been authorized and notified by the Tourism department for conducting the Alpine expeditions.

(c) Trekking:

- (i) For Foreign Groups - US \$ 200 for group of 5 to 10 members, US \$ 300 for group of 11 to 15 members and US \$ 400 for group of 16 to 20 members for Alpine Treks and 50% of the said amount for other treks.
- (ii) For Domestic Trekkers - ₹500 for individual, ₹ 3000 for group of 5 to 10 members, ₹4500 for group of 11 to 15 members and ₹6000 for group of 16 to 20 members for Alpine Treks and 50% of the said amount for other treks.
- (iii) For an all Sikkim Group - One third of the fee prescribed at (ii) above. Royalty will not be charged for treks in respect of a student from Sikkim.

Note: (1) The fee is for the duration of trek, which is usually 10 days on the average.
 (2) Entry fee for entry into sanctuaries and national parks and other related fees as may be prescribed from time to time by the State Forests Department will be in addition to the Royalty prescribed above.

2. INSURANCE COVER:

The following minimum insurance coverage shall be ensured for the mountain climbing and Alpine expeditions:

- (a) Expedition members : ₹ 3 lakhs per member.
- (b) Camp crews, Guides & Porters : ₹ 1 lakh per person.
- (c) Animals : ₹ 20,000/- per animal.

3. MAINTENANCE FEE:

The Tourism department supported by the Forest, Environment & WL Management department shall be responsible for ensuring that mountain expedition and trekking routes are well maintained. For the purpose a nominal maintenance fee of ₹ 50 per head shall be payable by the Expedition and Trekking parties' under Tourism department Revenue head '1452-800-Other Receipts'. The Finance, Expenditure & Revenue department will provide an amount equivalent of the revenue so collected to the department through an annual budgetary provision.

4. SEARCH & RESCUE:

The Tour Operator shall be responsible for search and rescue and shall undertake the same under the overall control and directions of the Tourism department. To ensure timely and effective search and rescue in case of any mishap or accident the Tour Operators will be required to give bank guarantee of ₹ 1 lakh before permission for climbing of peaks is granted.

5. For effective coordination of the search and rescue efforts in case of serious mishap or accident following state level and district level committees are constituted:

(I) STATE LEVEL COMMITTEE

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| a. Secretary, Tourism Department | - Chairman |
| b. Secretary, Land Revenue & Disaster Mgt. Department or his representative | - Member. |
| c. Secretary Forest, Env. & WL Mgt. Department or his representative | - do - |
| d. Director, Health Services | - do - |
| e. DIGP, Range | - do - |
| f. Representatives of Army/CPMF | - do - |
| g. Principal, SGMl | - do - |
| h. President, Travel Agents Association of Sikkim | - do - |
| i. President, Sikkim Association of Adv. Tour Operators | - do - |
| j. President, Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association | - do - |
| k. Joint Secretary, Adventure Tourism | - Member Secretary |

(II) DISTRICT LEVEL / LOCAL LEVEL COMMITTEE

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| a. District Collector | - Chairman |
| b. Superintendent of Police | - Member |
| c. Chief Medical Officer | - do - |
| d. District Forest Officer (Territorial) | - do - |
| e. Panchayat President of the area | - do - |
| f. President, Local Tourism Committee | - do - |
| g. Dy/Asstt. Director of Tourism in district (TIC) | - Member Secretary |

6. The Tourism department shall maintain an updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlining the steps to be taken by various agencies in the event of a tourist related mishap, accident or misadventure in the State of Sikkim and further ensure that concerned government servants, tour operators and members of the expeditions/treks are aware of the their responsibilities and are prepared to handle any mishap accident or misadventure.

7. PROCEDURE, CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF VARIOUS AGENCIES:

- (1) Tourism department shall be the nodal authority to permit and regulate all adventure sports activities, including mountain climbing, Alpine expeditions and trekking, in the State of Sikkim.
- (2) In carrying out its function in relation to above stated activities the Tourism department shall, however, ensure that no monopoly is created in favour of any agency, association or individual or a group of them in the conduct of such activities in the State.
- (3) All applications for mountain climbing, Alpine expeditions and treks shall be addressed to the Secretary; Tourism Department in the prescribed form who shall be the competent authority to issue the permits subject to the laws, rules and guidelines prescribed by the Central and State Governments.
- (4) Permits shall be given by the appropriate authority in the Tourism department in the prescribed form giving all details and do's and don'ts, as prescribed by the Central and State Government authorities from time to time, for compliance by the tourists (domestic and foreign) and other concerned agencies. Not more than 10 expeditions per peak (6 foreign and 4 domestic) shall be permitted in a year.

- (5) The State Government has, vide Notification No. 70/HOME/2001 dated 20.9.2001, banned the scaling of the sacred peaks and defilement of sacred rocks/lakes/chhoedtens/hot springs listed therein. Permits for climbing of peaks and trekking shall, therefore, be given only for peaks and routes that are presently open for climbing and trekking. For any new peak or trekking route approval of the competent authority will have to be taken, proposal for which should be moved by the Tourism Department well in time to the Home Department for appropriate action.
- (6) In respect of foreigners, permission for expeditions/treks shall be given only by the competent authority in the Tourism department as prescribed by the Central Government and these powers shall not be exercised or delegated to any subordinate authority. Approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and in some cases the Ministry of Defense is necessary where the area covered by the expedition/trek or the time period involved is beyond the limits for which permission can be granted by the State authorities. Such cases, complete in all particulars, shall be forwarded by the Tourism Department to the Home Department at least three months in advance for reference to the Government of India for necessary clearance. A copy of the reference to MHA shall also be faxed by the Home Department to Sikkim Tourism Office at New Delhi.
- (7) It shall be the responsibility of the concerned authorities in the Tourism department, operators, LOs and guides to ensure compliance with the RAP/PAP regime in the State and that violations, if any are brought to the notice of the concerned authorities for necessary action as per law.
- (8) Permit from the office of the Superintendent of Police, Check posts, Gangtok shall also be taken for entry into the protected areas as defined under Schedule I of the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 as amended vide Foreigners (Protected Areas) Amendment Order, 1990 and under State Government Notification No. S/480/HP in respect of all tourists and non residents of these places.
- (9) Copy of the permit shall be invariably endorsed to the concerned District Collector, District Superintendent of Police, Police Check posts office and the appropriate Army/CPMF authorities in case the peak/trekking route falls near their camps. In case of foreigners a copy will also be endorsed to the FRO, Gangtok and the concerned Police Station.
- (10) The Tour Operators and members of the mountain climbing, Alpine expedition and trekking teams shall strictly abide by the law/rules, the Basic Minimum Standards, including Liaison Officers and Guides, and such other conditions or code of conduct as may be prescribed by the Tourism and Forest, Environment & WL Management departments from time to time. Non-compliance may lead to their being debarred from future expeditions/treks in addition to imposition of penalties prescribed therein.

By order and in the name of the Governor.

T.T. Dorji,
Chief Secretary
F. No. Home/Conf/148/2009/03